



Floating world of the Urus

BOUNTIFUL AND BUOYANT, totora reeds from Titicaca's shallows supply the Urus with material for homes and boats. Reeds even provide the "ground" these fisherfolk walk on, since they live on floating islands (above). As bottom layers rot, the Indians spread new layers on top.

Seated on the spongy surface (left), an Uru woman grinds barley for making gruel or mush.

Like the Aymaras, the Uru learned the art from the Aymaras who crossed the Andes on papyrus. Aymaras from the Titicaca learned the art from the Aymaras (see the January 1971 issue of National Geographic).

